

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-24 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Application Publication No. 2001/0017967 ("Hirano et al").

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that Hirano et al has a filing date of December 13, 2000, which is after the August 20, 1999, and December 22, 1999 priority dates of the present application.

Submitted herewith is an accurate English translation of Japanese priority application JP 11-234767 filed August 20, 1999 to show that claims 19 and 20 are fully supported by the disclosure of JP 11-234767 and are therefore entitled to the priority date of August 20, 1999. Claim 19 is supported by the disclosure in JP 11-234767 at, for example, paragraphs [0011], [0013], [0014] and [0025], and Tables 2, 3, 6 and 7. And claim 20 is supported by the disclosure in JP 11-234767 at, for example, paragraph [0024].

Also submitted herewith is an accurate English translation of Japanese priority application JP 11-364609 filed December 22, 1999 to show that claims 21-24 are fully supported by the disclosure of JP 11-364609 and are therefore entitled by the

priority date of December 22, 1999. Claim 21 is supported by the disclosure in JP 11-364609 at, for example, paragraphs [0012], [0014], [0015], [0028] and [0041]. Claim 22 is supported by the disclosure in JP 11-234767 at, for example, paragraph [0027]. Claim 23 is supported by the disclosure in JP 11-364609 at, for example, paragraphs [0012], [0014], [0015] and [0028], and by, in particular, Trial Examples 22, 42, 44, 45 and 71a. And claim 24 is supported by the disclosure in JP 11-234767 at, for example, paragraph [0027].

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 19 and 20 are entitled to the priority date of August 20, 1999, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 21-24 are entitled to the priority date of December 22, 1999.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Hirano et al, which has a filing date of December 13, 2000, is not a proper reference against the present application. And it is respectfully requested that the rejection in view of Hirano et al be withdrawn.

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Allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Application No. 10/603,376
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas Holtz
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor
New York, New York 10017-2023
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No. (212) 319-5101

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